

UFO MAGAZINE NEWS BULLETIN

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UFOLOGY IN RETROFIRE: WHY CHASE THE UNCHASEABLE?

by Curt Sutherly

Few mysteries throughout the planet we call Earth have gained the widespread notoriety that the UFO enigma has obtained. From all walks of life come men and women who carry within them the hope of solving the puzzle.

And I? ... But another in the long procession of "dedicated saucer-seekers."

Yet why bother? What shadowy reason is there for persistently chasing after the seemingly impossible? Answer: there is no real answer. The enigma is there; it beckons, it calls, almost it begs men to pursue the totally unknown--that which humanity has been doing since first the snake hissed "Go on, eat of that tree."

Through the long growing pains of mankind's history the saucer has followed us like a plague. It hounded the men whose histories are chronicled in the Bible. If that sounds doubtful, read the opening paragraphs of the book of Ezekiel, which begin (verse four) --

--"And I looked up, and behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire..."

When Columbus was approaching the southern coastal regions of this continent on his famous quest, his men nearly panicked after spotting a glowing object dancing strangely on the horizon. Fortunately for Chris, he was able to turn that fateful sighting to his advantage. He told the crew that the light was an omen of a near-end to their voyage. Oddly enough, the journey soon did end.

In the late 1800's (circa 1896-97), Americans nationwide reported spotting strange craft which resembled dirigibles, or more commonly -- airships. This may not seem unusual until one thinks about the rarity of lighter-than-air craft during those years. Balloons were few; blimps only coming of age. And what dirigible then known could fly thirty miles per hour, and carry the enormous spotlights witnesses described. If that too sounds like fiction, then consider that the newspapers of that era must have been printing a lot of garbage; those "fact-sheets" were devoting considerable space to stories of such happenings.

In 1947, Ufological fire swept the modern world. A pilot named Kenneth Arnold spotted his infamous nine disks over Mt. Ranier in Washington State. Arnold reportedly pronounced them as "skimming across the sky like saucers across water." Super-enthusiastic reporters who interviewed the pilot rushed back to their respective newsrooms and pounded the frantic term FLYING SAUCER into headlines around the western nation. It takes little imagination to realize what followed...

Since that day in 1947, the attitudes of civilized men have varied with regard to the topic of UFOs (perhaps better called UAO; unidentified aerial objects, as once noted by the late Ivan T. Sanderson).

The military, long branded by certain "civilian researchers" for allegedly covering up the facts about many sightings, has publicly given up trying to analyze reports. The U.S. Air Force turned their end of the mess over to the University of Colorado in the vain hope of ending the business.

That's where the late Edward U. Condon came into the picture. Being a nuclear physicist of considerable repute (he aided in developing the Los Alamos, New Mexico nuclear bomb--the monster that helped win WW II), Condon was seemingly right for the job of desaucerizing the world. In the final analysis, Condon turned out to be a disbeliever to the nth extreme. Considerable taxpayer funds went down the drain as a result.

The University of Colorado fiasco-project took place during the late 1960's, in the wake of the big UFO "flap" of '65-'66. During that period, Dr. J. Allen Hynek (chief astronomer with Northwestern U. and former Air Force saucer consultant) was misquoted by the press (shame on 'em) as stating that the famous Michigan UFO episodes were nothing more than "marsh gas."

Then came 1973. The world is well aware of the immense UFO wave which swept it's surface.

But that flap didn't end in the late autumn of '73, as most lay-people would believe. In regions of Canada (Boshkung Lake in Ontario Province) and elsewhere, heavy concentrations of saucers pestered both law enforcement officials and average citizens; this during the early months of 1974.

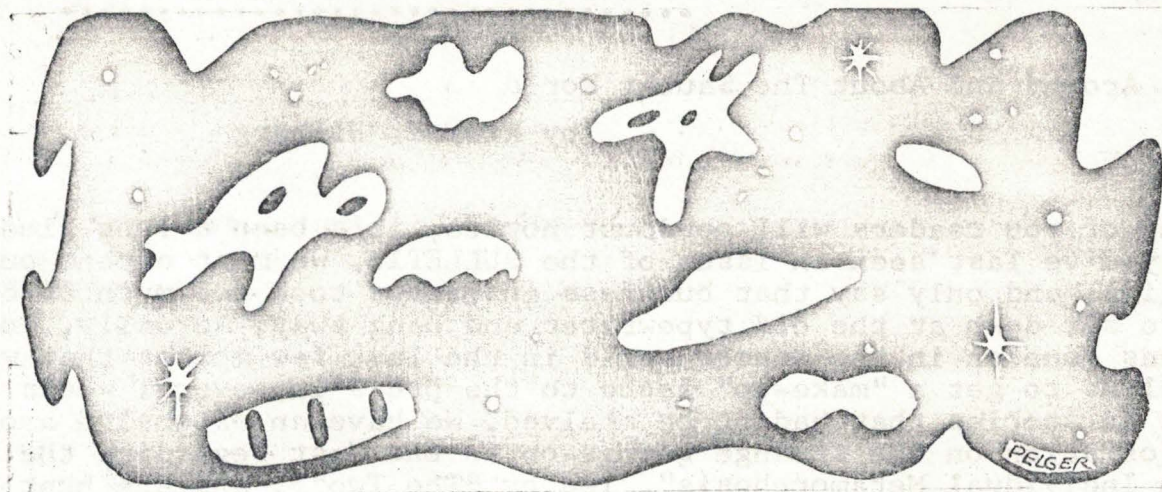
Actually, sightings of UFOs never stop! Every hour, somewhere on the globe someone is witnessing an object (or something which appears to be an object) which--as Dr. Hynek says--always leads to the statement, "It was like nothing I've ever seen before."

These and like events are what cause characters like myself to become embroiled in this mystery. Admit it to yourself; we all like mysteries. Unfortunately, some of us get more caught up in them than others.

I once made the bold statement that it would be worth dying to learn the secret of the saucers. Since, I've pondered my own bravado. Yet the quest (such as it is) has been interesting. One meets many kinds of people--some skeptical, some outright cultists. I hope to continue meeting both kinds and those inbetween, and maybe add a few sticks of

information to the growing firepile that is Ufology.

At least I'll keep right on trying.....



OHIO UFO "CHASED" BY POLICE OFFICERS (11/11/75)

A Madison, Ohio Township police officer claimed that he and a group made up of other officers and assorted citizens chased a strange UFO with red and green flashing lights for some twenty minutes, and thereby causing local news media to give UFO coverage not seen since the '73 flap.

Patrolman Zachary G. Space said a township resident, Kenneth Ohtola, had telephoned police at 3:34 A.M. to report the UFO. Space then went to the police station on West Main Street to see what other information would come in on the early morning visitor.

Police dispatcher Gerri Bowers was giving him the particulars, he said, when he saw the UFO heading toward the city of Painesville. Space said that he followed the object, and when it made a turn to the east he was joined in the chase by Ohtola, who had a passenger, Mike Davirro.

The UFO continued east and the chase was joined by a Lake County deputy sheriff and Patrolman Lester Nagle of Madison, Space said. The UFO reportedly hovered at high-tension wire level at Chapel Road near the Ashtabula County line. All got out of their cars at that time to have a good look. Space described the scene:

"It came down above the wires for maybe 15 or 20 seconds, then would rise up slowly and out of sight. Then it would reappear again. When it stopped to hover, all I could see was a big, bright light. When it started moving it was red and green."

Space, who was an Air Force mechanic for five years, said, "It did not resemble a plane or a helicopter. It went up and back too quick. As far as speed, it left in a flash."

When the UFO rose, Space said, it had "three dominant white lights

with a glow around it. They weren't steady lights."

The object finally headed east toward Ashtabula County making no noise as it departed.

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Around And About The Saucer World

by Rick R. Hilberg

As many of you readers will no doubt notice, it's been a long time since you've last seen an issue of the BULLETIN. We must extend our apologies, and only say that business interests took too much of our time to sit down at the old typewriter and bang away. Actually, so much has gone on in the saucer world in the last few months that we have plans to get a "make-up" issue to the press in several weeks to report on stories that had to be shelved. We have an extensive amount of information on the strange goings-on in the West regarding the "Human Individual Metamorphosis", led by "The Two", and the hunt by police and other agencies for the more than twenty people missing from their families. We also have a report on the man who was allegedly "zapped" by a UFO, disappeared, and who has recently turned up as a contactee. Hang on gang, We'll get you the news yet...

We would like to thank Mr. Robert S. Easley for the fine job he did in pulling off the 1975 National UFO Conference in Defiance, Ohio on the weekend of August 15th. It was the 12th annual edition of the convention which we feel offers the most to those of us in "middle Ufology".

While the turnout of delegates from around the nation was not as great as those of the late 1960's, a lively closed session gave those present a chance to discuss the future of the organization, and to set plans in motion for future gatherings. All of us in Defiance felt that "middle Ufology" needs the open, non-rigid format of the National UFO Conference to air the many diverse theories to be found in our sector of the field. Plans are already being made for the next edition, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio this next August; and as many potential new delegates will be contacted as is possible.

The high point of the Conference came after a great amount of television and radio publicity, capped by a front page story about the con in the Defiance paper telling of the open public session held on the campus of Defiance College. There, a large crowd heard many of the delegates speak, or show slides of alleged UFOs and related phenomena.

The only sour note of the whole affair was the absence of many of those who had either lent their pre-convention support to the project, or who had been beating the drums for the "middle Ufology" movement. It is sad to note that many of the same trekked their way to the NICAP-APRO-MUFON gathering in Fort Smith, Arkansas. To which we can only say: Hey, you didn't have to go all that way, "middle Ufology" - the genuine merchandise - was in Defiance!

Speaking of conventions, the next edition of Mysticon, called "Saucers, Space and Science Fiction", will be held in Cleveland, Ohio this coming May 22nd. Watch these pages for more details....